MARVEL COMICS
TIME AND TIME AGAIN
NIGHT THRASHER
JUN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KEITH AIKEN '93

THE STORY SO FAR: A war has begun between the SPHINXES, two immortal beings who seek sole control of the universal force known only as the energy of the KA. One, a man, whose life has been spent in a love of power, and another, a woman, who has grown to believe in the power of love. Their battle over who will ultimately wield the KA energy is tearing time itself apart--and the young super hero team known as the New Warriors--find themselves stuck in the middle!

TIME AND TIME AGAIN
FABIAN NICIEZA • DAVID BOLLER ELMAN BROWN and
writer FRANK TURNER: Pencilers
BRUCE PATTERSON, JIM AMASH, FRANK TURNER ELMAN BROWN
Inkers
JOHN COSTANZA • JOE ROSAS • ROB TOKAR
letterer colorist editor
TOM DEFALCO editor in chief

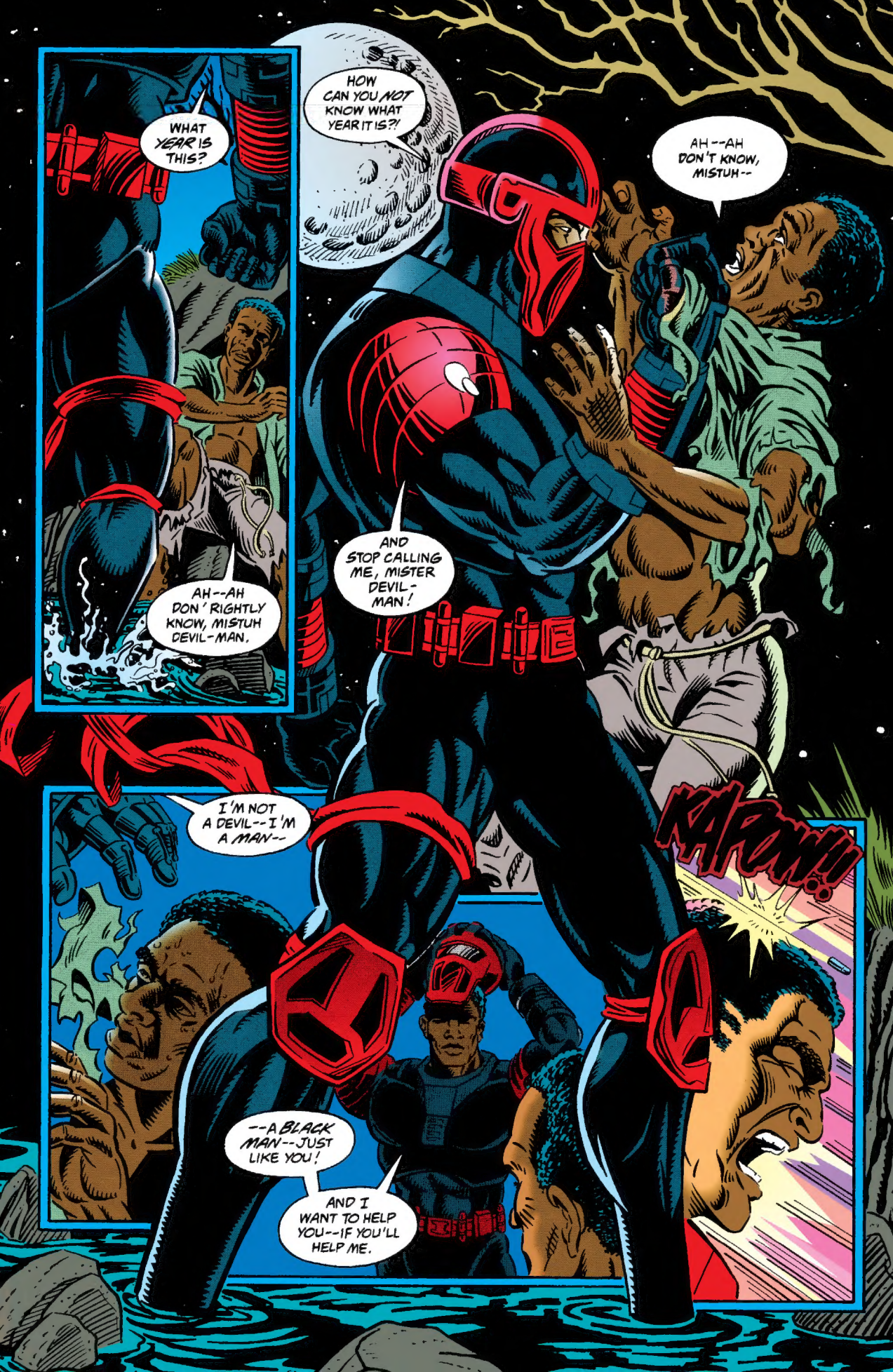
THE MALE SPHINX, HAVING BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE ONLY MONTHS AGO--
--LEARNED THAT THE PRICELESS POWER OF THE KA, WHICH WAS ONCE HIS--
-- WAS IN THE POSSESSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIER NAMED MERVET KARIM.
HE LAID A TRAP FOR HER, BAITED WITH THE PROMISE THAT HER ETERNAL, IMMORTAL LOVE FOR HIM WOULD FINALLY BE CONSUMMATED--
--AND AS THE TRAP WAS SPRUNG, HE STOLE BACK OVER HALF OF THE KA ENERGIES WHICH COURSED THROUGH HER BODY.
AND HIS FIRST ACT UPON BECOMING AS UNTO A GOD--
--WAS THE ELIMINATION OF EIGHT, TROUBLESOME CHILDREN; DAVIDS, WHO WOULD STOP AT NOTHING TO FIND A MEANS OF SLAYING GOLIATH.
BORN OF HIS FEVERED LUST FOR POWER AND CONTROL, EIGHT SEPARATE, FOCUSED BEAMS OF CHRONAL DISPLACEMENT ENERGY SPRUNG FROM HIS FINGERTIPS--
--AND EIGHT YOUNG HEROES DISAPPEARED.
A QUICK, CLINICAL QUELLING OF THE SPHINX'S FEARS..
...BUT ONLY THE BEGINNING OF OUR STORY.

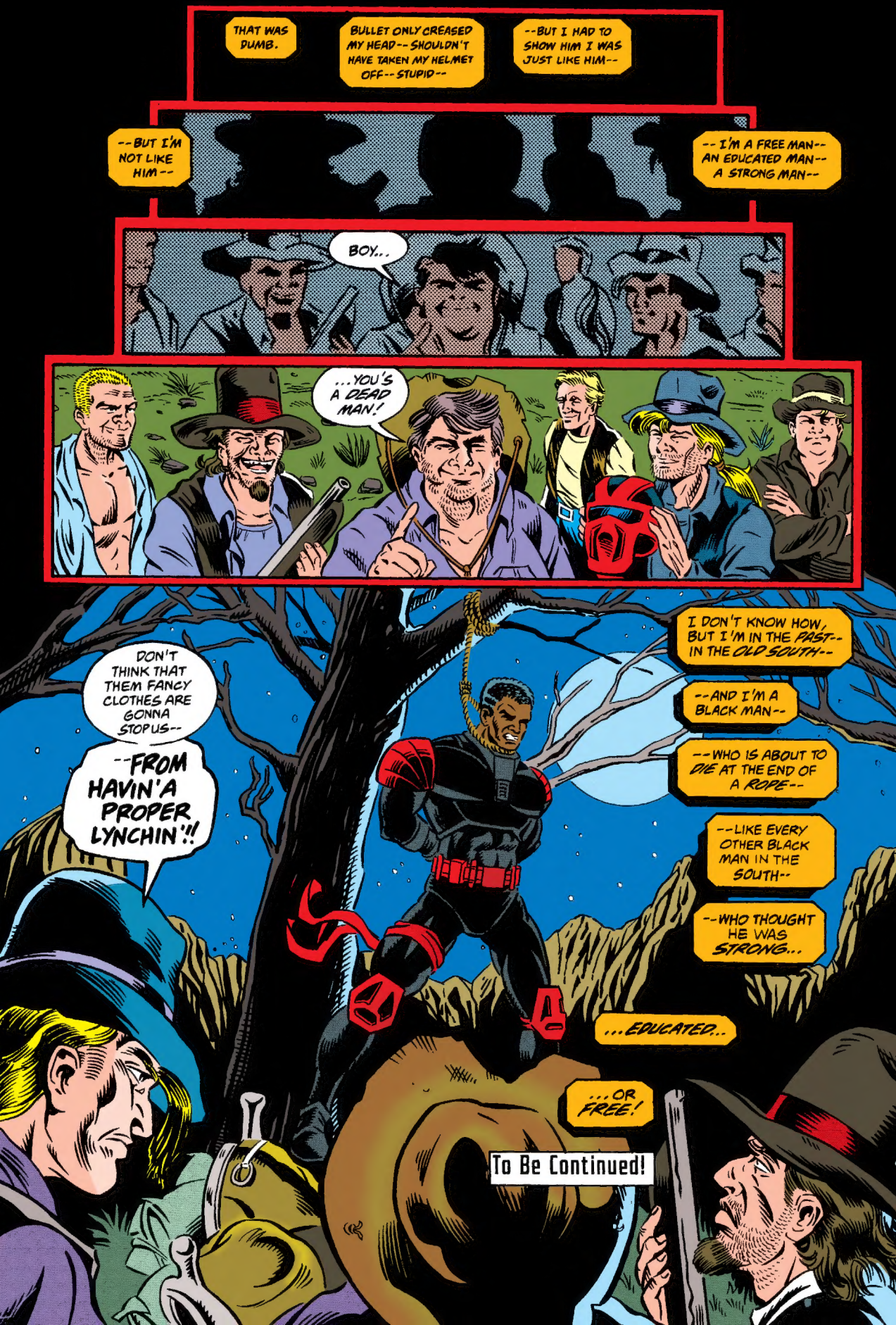
NIGHT THRASHER
SLAVE TO THE PAST
FOOTSTEPS IN THE WET GRASS.
POUNDING HARD, THE MARSHLAND MAKING A MUDDY SUCKING SOUND.
BREATH RAGGED AND HARSH.
SOMEONE IS RUNNING.
THUNDER? NO...
...HOOF BEATS?
HORSES.
SOMEONE IS RUNNING AWAY FROM HORSES?
OR... RUNNING AWAY FROM WHOEVER IS RIDING THE HORSES.

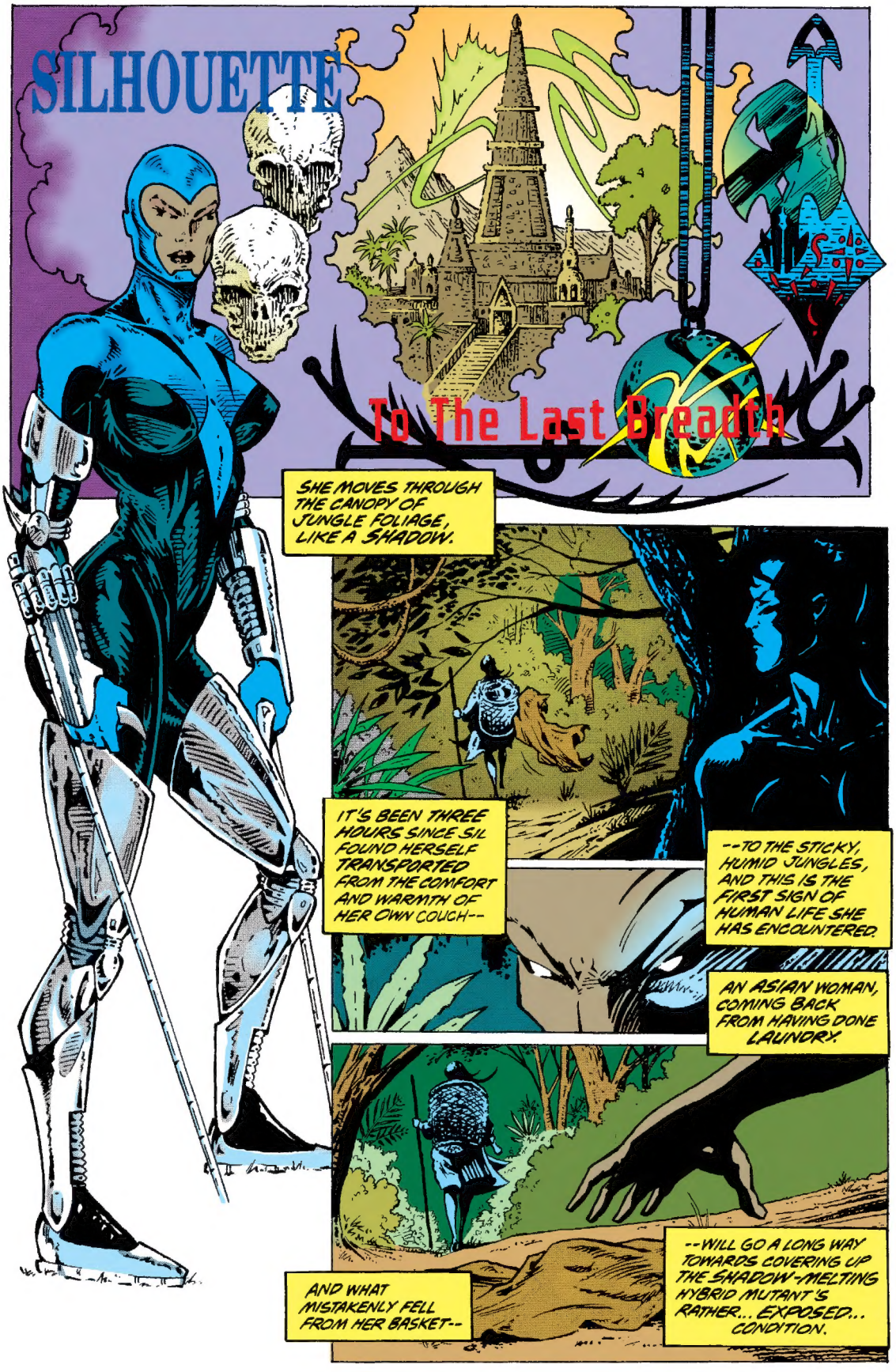
AUDIO SENSORS CAN PRACTICALLY PICK UP THE MAN'S HEARTBEAT.
HE'S RUNNING SCARED.
DIRT SCUFFLING? HE'S FALLING?
WATER-- SPLASHING-- HE FELL INTO THE CREEK.
THE THUNDER STOPS.
NO--!
NO, WHAT, BOY?
NO, YOU SHOULDNA' RUN AWAY?
NO, YOU SHOULDNA' KILT MR. LEE?
ENGLISH? WELL, THAT ASSURES ME OF ONE THING AT LEAST--
-- I'M STILL ON EARTH! I WAS BEGINNING TO WONDER.

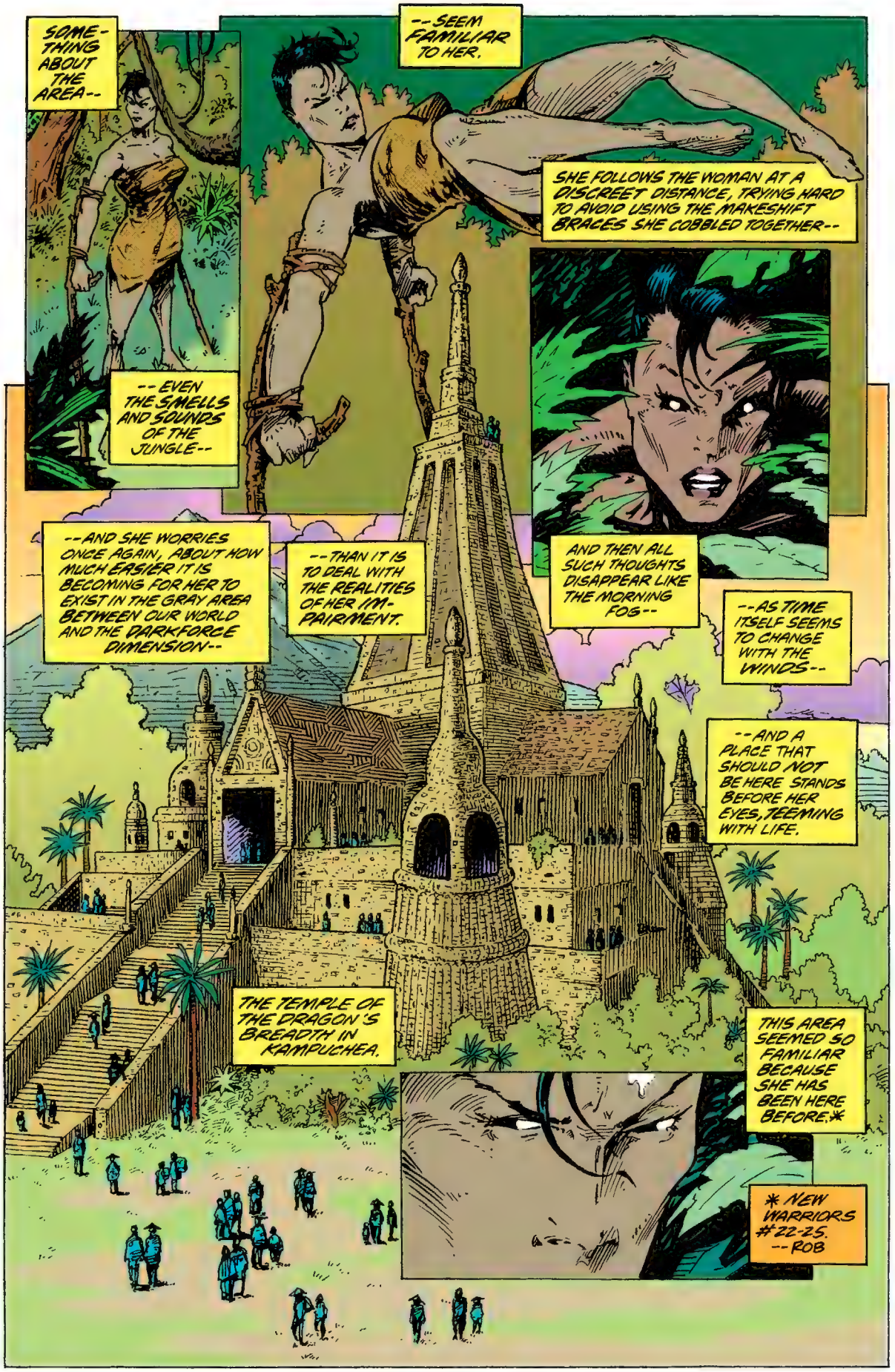
OR WAIT--AH GOT IT NOW--NO, SUH, I'M A NO GOOD MURDERER WHO DON'T DESERVE TA LIVE NO MORE!
DON, MASSUH HIGGINS--
YEAH, "MASTER HIGGINS"--DON'T.
KRAK
THUPP
A TRUNCHEON LAUNCH SHATTERS HIS JAW.
FOR THE OTHER TWO, I RESERVE THE PLEASURE OF TAKING THEM DOWN WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!

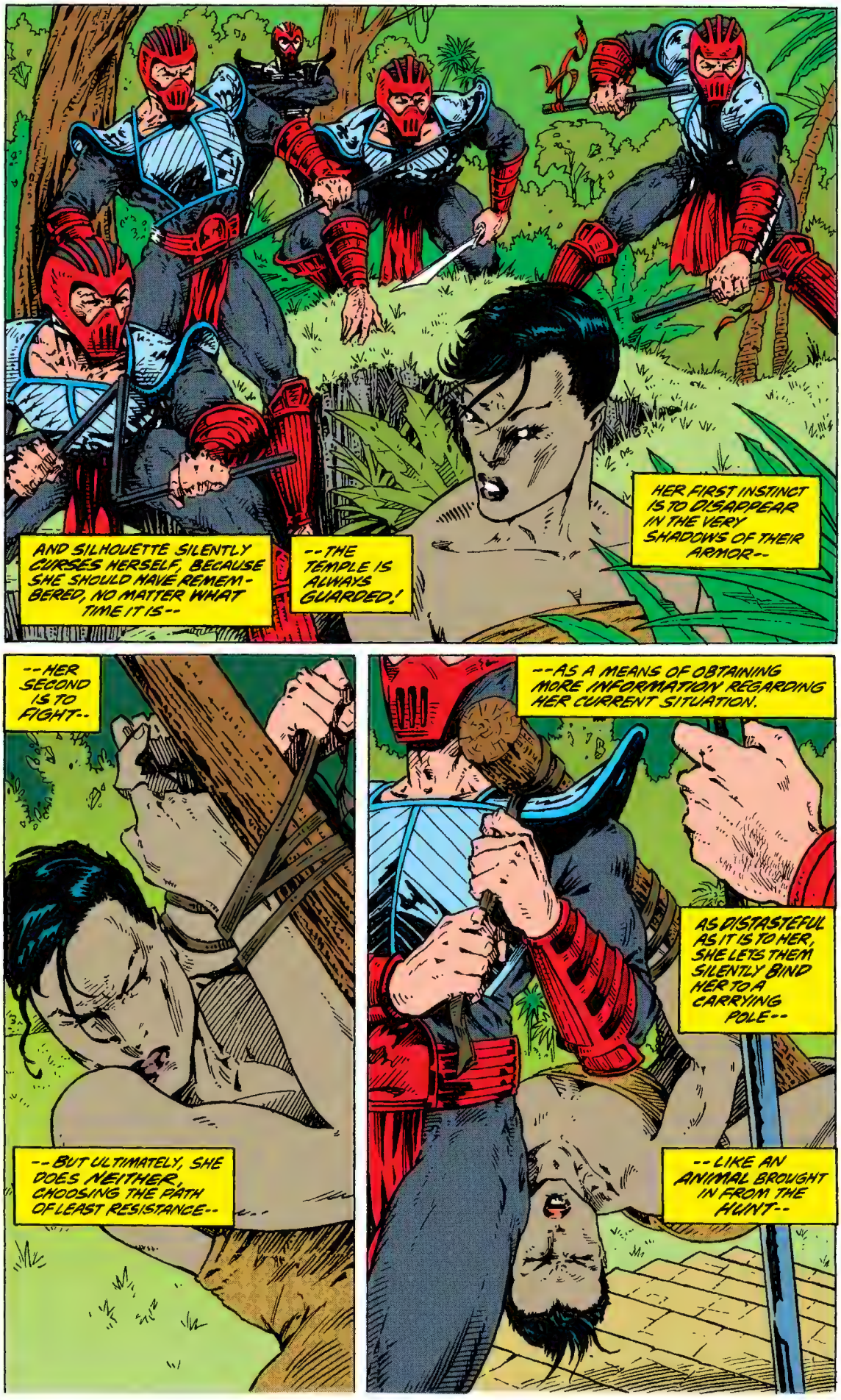
FROM THE SOUND OF IT--
--I'M SOMEWHERE CHORD TOLD ME NEVER TO GO IF I COULD AVOID IT...
...SOMEWHERE BELOW THE MASON-DIXON LINE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DON'T HURT ME, MISTUH DEVIL-MAN!
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. THE MAN CALLED YOU A SLAVE?
YUH--
THIS GUN-- YOUR CLOTHES-- WHO ARE YOU? WHERE AM I?
MUH NAME'S MOSES TARGUM, MISTUH DEVIL-MAN--
--THEYS CAME AFTER ME 'CAUSE AH DONE KILT MASTUH LEE--
--ON ACCOUNTA' HE KILT MAH WIFE!
AH RAN 'CAUSE NO SLAVE CAN KILL HIS MASTUH AN' GET AWAY WITH IT IN ALABAMA!
WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?
ONE MINUTE I WAS TALKING TO CARLTON LAFROYGE AT THE WARRIORS CRASH-PAD--
--AND NOW, I'M STANDING IN ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR DEGREE HEAT IN ALABAMA?

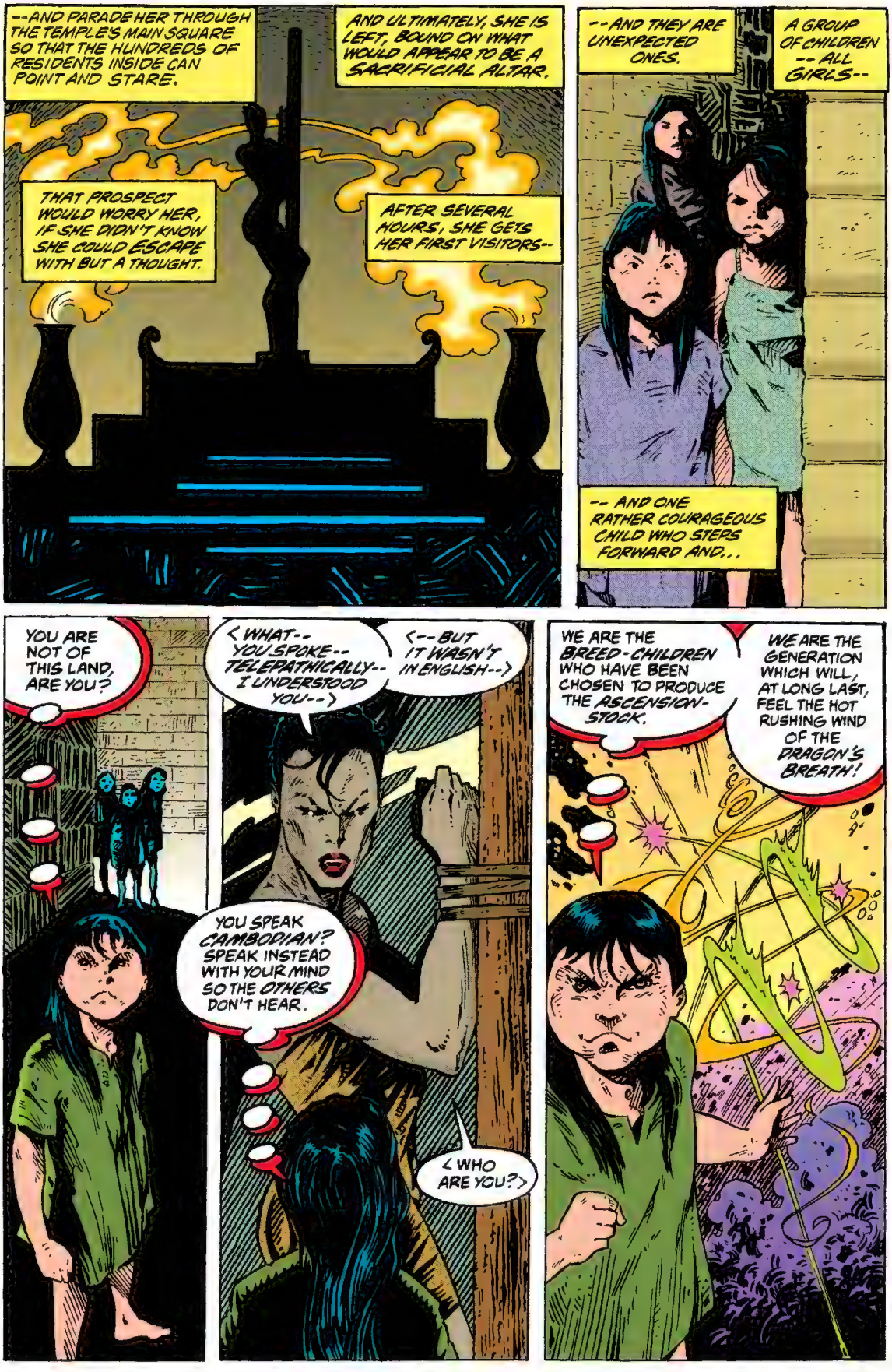

WHAT YEAR IS THIS?
AH--AH DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW, MISTUH DEVIL-MAN.
HOW CAN YOU NOT KNOW WHAT YEAR IT IS?!
AH--AH DON'T KNOW, MISTUH--
AND STOP CALLING ME, MISTER DEVIL-MAN!
I'M NOT A DEVIL--I'M A MAN--
--A BLACK MAN--JUST LIKE YOU!
AND I WANT TO HELP YOU--IF YOU'LL HELP ME.
KAROW!!

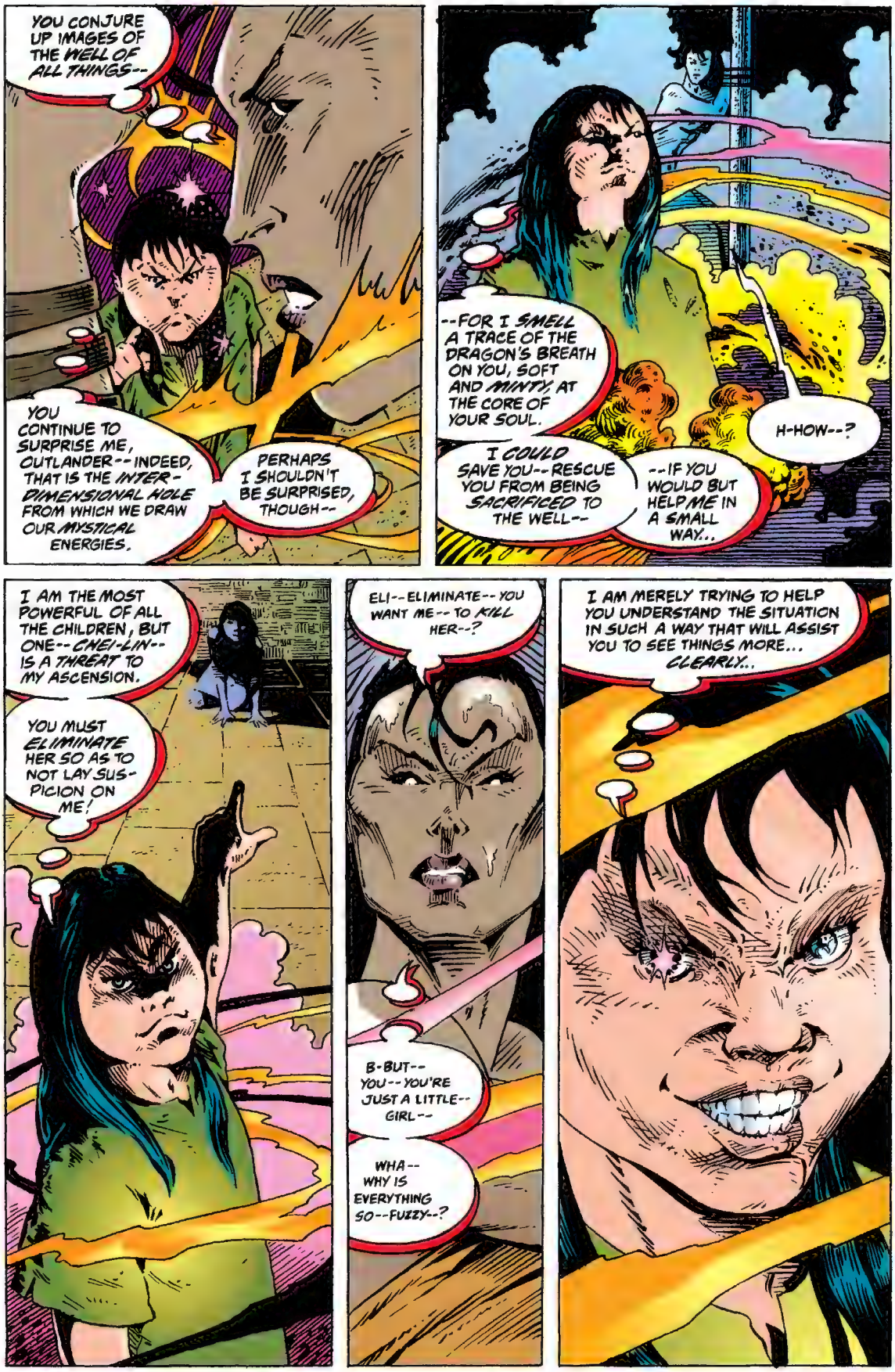

THAT WAS DUMB.
BULLET ONLY CREASED MY HEAD-- SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY HELMET OFF-- STUPID--
--BUT I HAD TO SHOW HIM I WAS JUST LIKE HIM--
--BUT I'M NOT LIKE HIM--
--I'M A FREE MAN-- AN EDUCATED MAN-- A STRONG MAN--
BOY...
...YOU'S A DEAD MAN!
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I'M IN THE PAST-- IN THE OLD SOUTH--
--AND I'M A BLACK MAN--
--WHO IS ABOUT TO DIE AT THE END OF A ROPE--
--LIKE EVERY OTHER BLACK MAN IN THE SOUTH--
--WHO THOUGHT HE WAS STRONG...
...EDUCATED...
...OR FREE!
DON'T THINK THAT THEM FANCY CLOTHES ARE GONNA STOP US--
--FROM HAVIN' A PROPER LYNCHIN'!!
To Be Continued!


SILHOUETTE
To The Last Breadth
SHE MOVES THROUGH THE CANOPY OF JUNGLE FOLIAGE, LIKE A SHADOW.
IT'S BEEN THREE HOURS SINCE SIL FOUND HERSELF TRANSPORTED FROM THE COMFORT AND WARMTH OF HER OWN COUCH--
--TO THE STICKY, HUMID JUNGLES, AND THIS IS THE FIRST SIGN OF HUMAN LIFE SHE HAS ENCOUNTERED.
AN ASIAN WOMAN, COMING BACK FROM HAVING DONE LAUNDRY.
AND WHAT MISTAKENLY FELL FROM HER BASKET--
--WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS COVERING UP THE SHADOW-MELTING HYBRID MUTANT'S RATHER... EXPOSED... CONDITION.

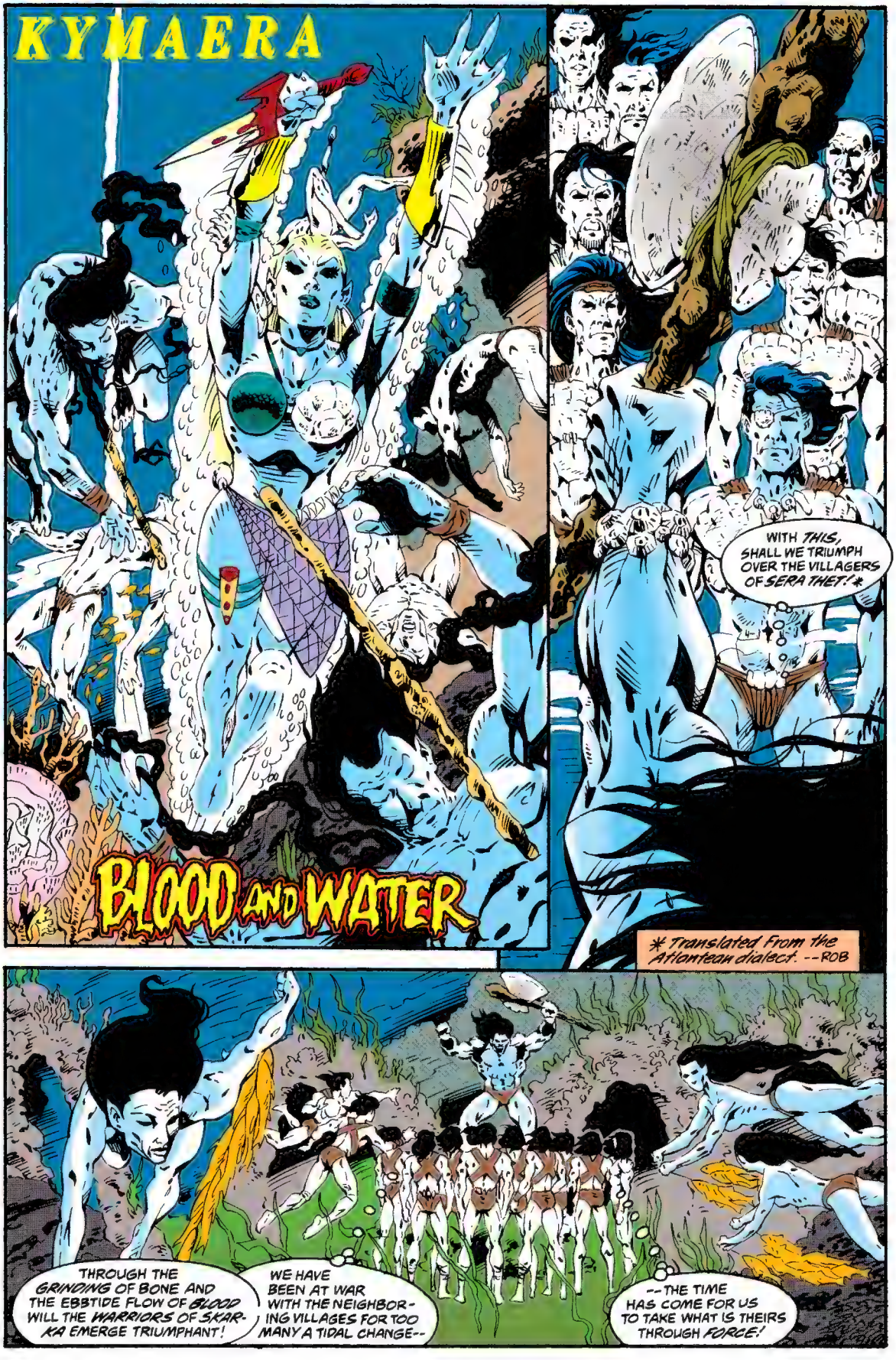

SOMETHING ABOUT THE AREA--
--SEEM FAMILIAR TO HER.
SHE FOLLOWS THE WOMAN AT A DISCREET DISTANCE, TRYING HARD TO AVOID USING THE MAKESHIFT BRACES SHE COBBLED TOGETHER--
--EVEN THE SMELLS AND SOUNDS OF THE JUNGLE--
AND THEN ALL SUCH THOUGHTS DISAPPEAR LIKE THE MORNING FOG--
--AND SHE WORRIES ONCE AGAIN, ABOUT HOW MUCH EASIER IT IS BECOMING FOR HER TO EXIST IN THE GRAY AREA BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND THE DARKFORCE DIMENSION--
--THAN IT IS TO DEAL WITH THE REALITIES OF HER IMPAIRMENT.
--AS TIME ITSELF SEEMS TO CHANGE WITH THE WINDS--
--AND A PLACE THAT SHOULD NOT BE HERE STANDS BEFORE HER EYES, TEEMING WITH LIFE.
THE TEMPLE OF THE DRAGON'S BREADTH IN KAMPUCHEA.
THIS AREA SEEMED SO FAMILIAR BECAUSE SHE HAS BEEN HERE BEFORE.*
* NEW WARRIORS #22-25. --ROB

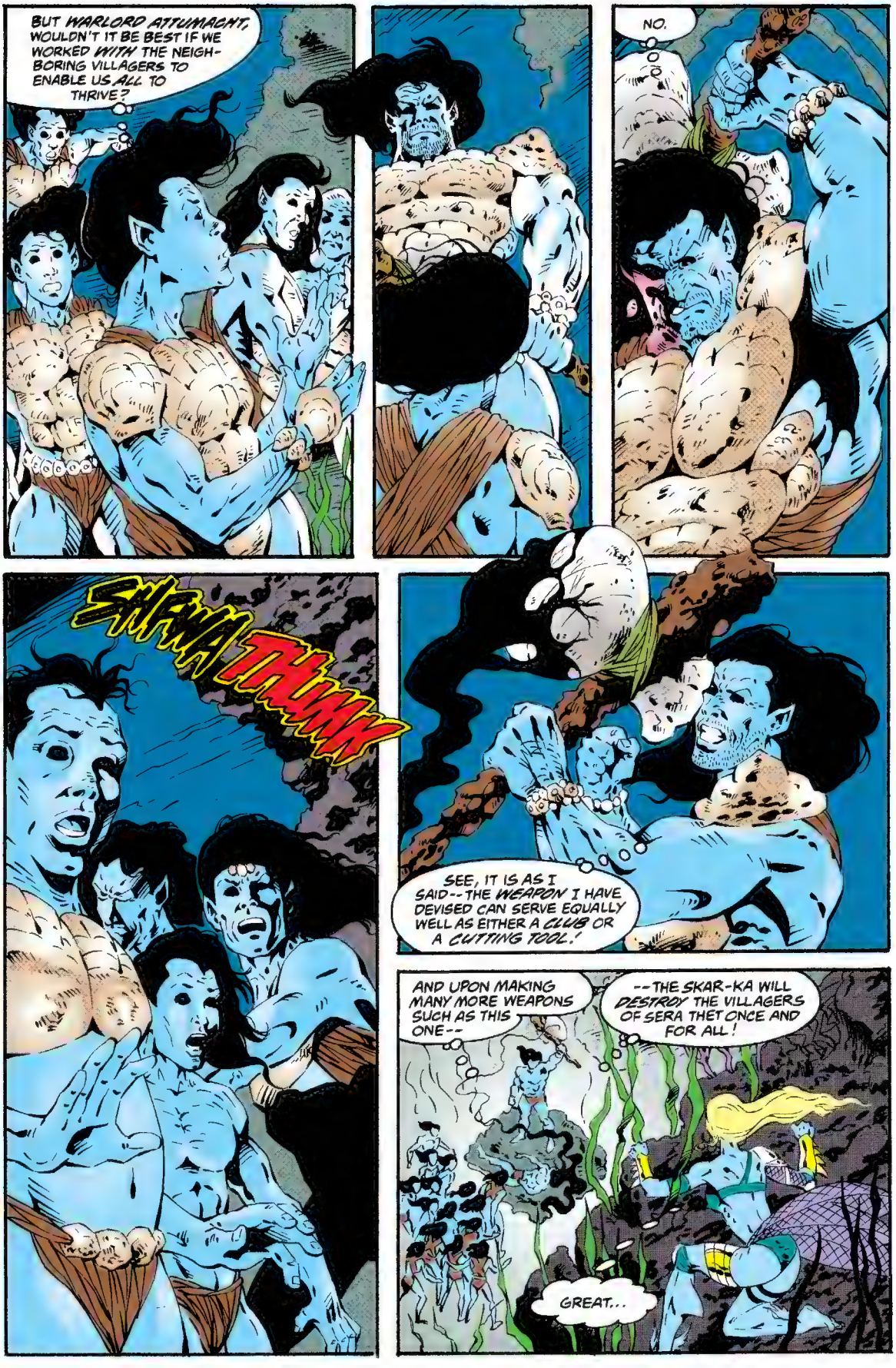

AND SILHOUETTE SILENTLY CURSES HERSELF, BECAUSE SHE SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED, NO MATTER WHAT TIME IT IS--
--THE TEMPLE IS ALWAYS GUARDED!
HER FIRST INSTINCT IS TO DISAPPEAR IN THE VERY SHADOWS OF THEIR ARMOR--
--HER SECOND IS TO FIGHT--
--BUT ULTIMATELY, SHE DOES NEITHER, CHOOSING THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE--
--AS A MEANS OF OBTAINING MORE INFORMATION REGARDING HER CURRENT SITUATION.
AS DISTASTEFUL AS IT IS TO HER, SHE LETS THEM SILENTLY BIND HER TO A CARRYING POLE--
--LIKE AN ANIMAL BROUGHT IN FROM THE HUNT--

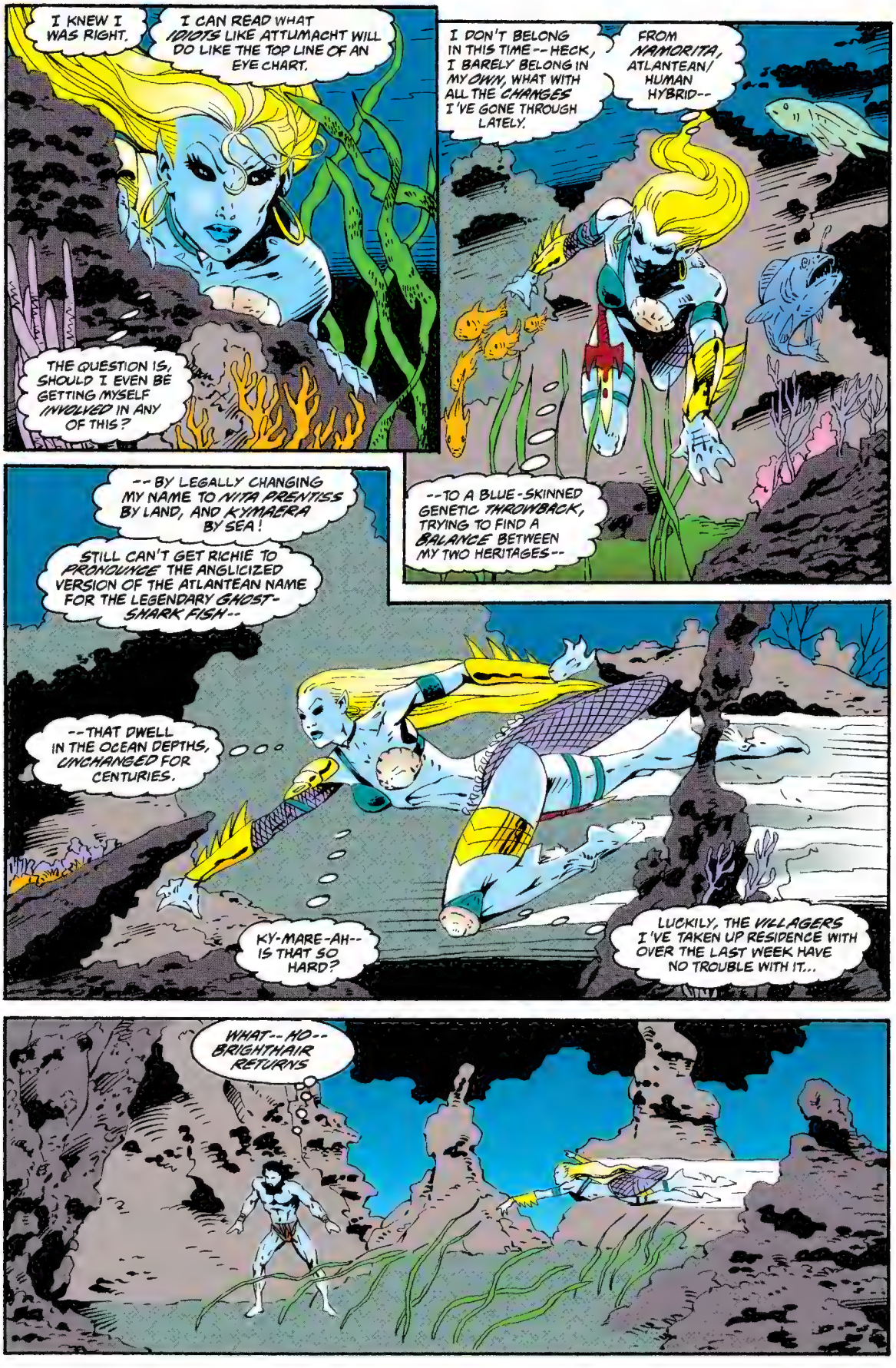

--AND PARADE HER THROUGH THE TEMPLE'S MAIN SQUARE SO THAT THE HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS INSIDE CAN POINT AND STARE.
AND ULTIMATELY, SHE IS LEFT, BOUND ON WHAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A SACRIFICIAL ALTAR.
THAT PROSPECT WOULD WORRY HER, IF SHE DIDN'T KNOW SHE COULD ESCAPE WITH BUT A THOUGHT.
AFTER SEVERAL HOURS, SHE GETS HER FIRST VISITORS--
--AND THEY ARE UNEXPECTED ONES.
A GROUP OF CHILDREN -- ALL GIRLS--
-- AND ONE RATHER COURAGEOUS CHILD WHO STEPS FORWARD AND...
YOU ARE NOT OF THIS LAND, ARE YOU?
<WHAT-- YOU SPOKE-- TELEPATHICALLY-- I UNDERSTOOD YOU--)
<--BUT IT WASN'T IN ENGLISH--)
YOU SPEAK CAMBODIAN? SPEAK INSTEAD WITH YOUR MIND SO THE OTHERS DON'T HEAR.
<WHO ARE YOU?)
WE ARE THE BREED-CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO PRODUCE THE ASCENSION-STOCK.
WE ARE THE GENERATION WHICH WILL, AT LONG LAST, FEEL THE HOT RUSHING WIND OF THE DRAGON'S BREATH!

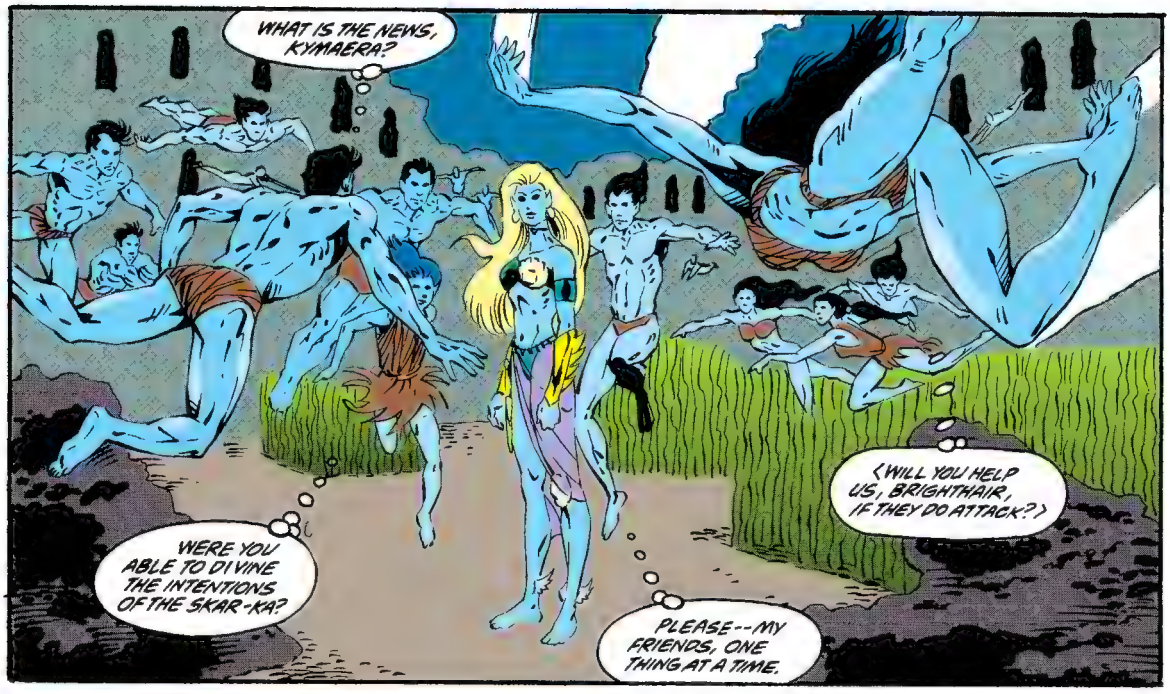

YOU CONJURE UP IMAGES OF THE WELL OF ALL THINGS--
YOU CONTINUE TO SURPRISE ME, OUTLANDER--INDEED, THAT IS THE INTER-DIMENSIONAL HOLE FROM WHICH WE DRAW OUR MYSTICAL ENERGIES.
PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED, THOUGH--
--FOR I SMELL A TRACE OF THE DRAGON'S BREATH ON YOU, SOFT AND MINTY, AT THE CORE OF YOUR SOUL.
I COULD SAVE YOU--RESCUE YOU FROM BEING SACRIFICED TO THE WELL--
--IF YOU WOULD BUT HELP ME IN A SMALL WAY..
H-HOW--?
I AM THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL THE CHILDREN, BUT ONE--CHEI-LIN--IS A THREAT TO MY ASCENSION.
YOU MUST ELIMINATE HER SO AS TO NOT LAY SUSPICION ON ME!
ELI--ELIMINATE--YOU WANT ME--TO KILL HER--?
B-BUT--YOU--YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE--GIRL--
WHA--WHY IS EVERYTHING SO--FUZZY--?
I AM MERELY TRYING TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN SUCH A WAY THAT WILL ASSIST YOU TO SEE THINGS MORE... CLEARLY...

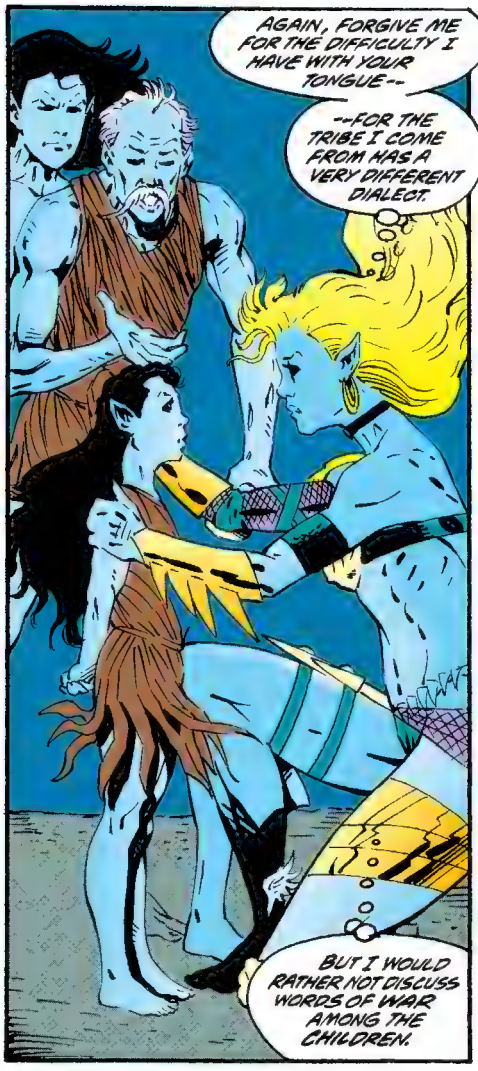
NOOOOO--!!
<YOU BREAK FREE OF MY CONTROL?>
<THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!>
<IT IS, AS IF I HAVE FELT THAT SAME SUBVERSIVE, PERVASIVE INFLUENCE BEFORE, CHILD--
--FROM A MIND MUCH STRONGER THAN YOURS, BECAUSE IT HAD YEARS TO HONE ITS INSIDIOUS WAYS! >
THEIR SHOUTING HAS ALERTED THE RESIDENTS OF THE TEMPLE--
--AND SIL KNOWS THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE THE TRUTH COMING FROM HER.
<TELL THEM TO BACK OFF OR I'LL KILL YOU RIGHT NOW!>
THE GIRL TELLS THEM, IN A SOFT, QUIVERING, FEARFUL VOICE. IT IS QUITE THE CONVINCING PERFORMANCE.
<THEY WISH TO KNOW WHY YOU WOULD DO SOMETHING SO HORRIBLE?>
<IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, CHILD-- I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO BECOME--
--AND BECAUSE I'D BE SAVING THEIR LIVES AND THOSE OF THEIR CHILDREN--AS WELL AS THAT OF MY OWN UNBORN MOTHER!
I KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE YOU--NO MATTER THE FORM ON THE OUTSIDE--I KNOW THIS AS SURELY AS I KNOW THAT YOUR NAME IS--?
"--TAI!!"
TO BE CONTINUED!


KYMAERA
BLOOD AND WATER
WITH THIS, SHALL WE TRIUMPH OVER THE VILLAGERS OF SERA THET! *
* Translated From the Atlantean dialect. --ROB
THROUGH THE GRINDING OF BONE AND THE EBBTIDE FLOW OF BLOOD WILL THE WARRIORS OF SKARKA EMERGE TRIUMPHANT!
WE HAVE BEEN AT WAR WITH THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGES FOR TOO MANY A TIDAL CHANGE--
--THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO TAKE WHAT IS THEIRS THROUGH FORCE!

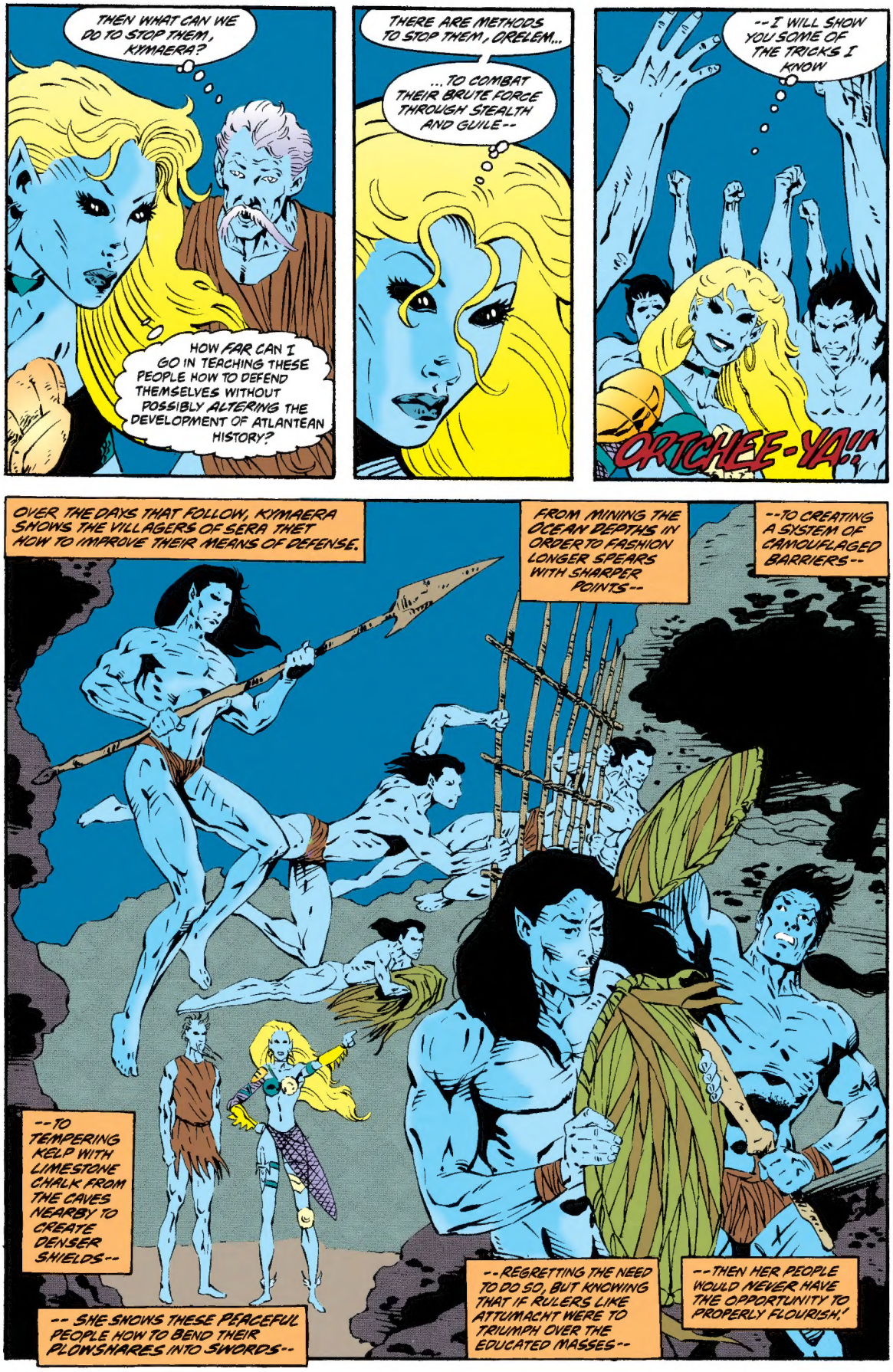

BUT WARLORD ATTUMAGHT, WOULDN'T IT BE BEST IF WE WORKED WITH THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGERS TO ENABLE US ALL TO THRIVE?
NO.
SWAK
THUNK
SEE, IT IS AS I SAID--THE WEAPON I HAVE DEVISED CAN SERVE EQUALLY WELL AS EITHER A CLUB OR A CUTTING TOOL!
AND UPON MAKING MANY MORE WEAPONS SUCH AS THIS ONE--
--THE SKAR-KA WILL DESTROY THE VILLAGERS OF SERA THET ONCE AND FOR ALL!
GREAT...

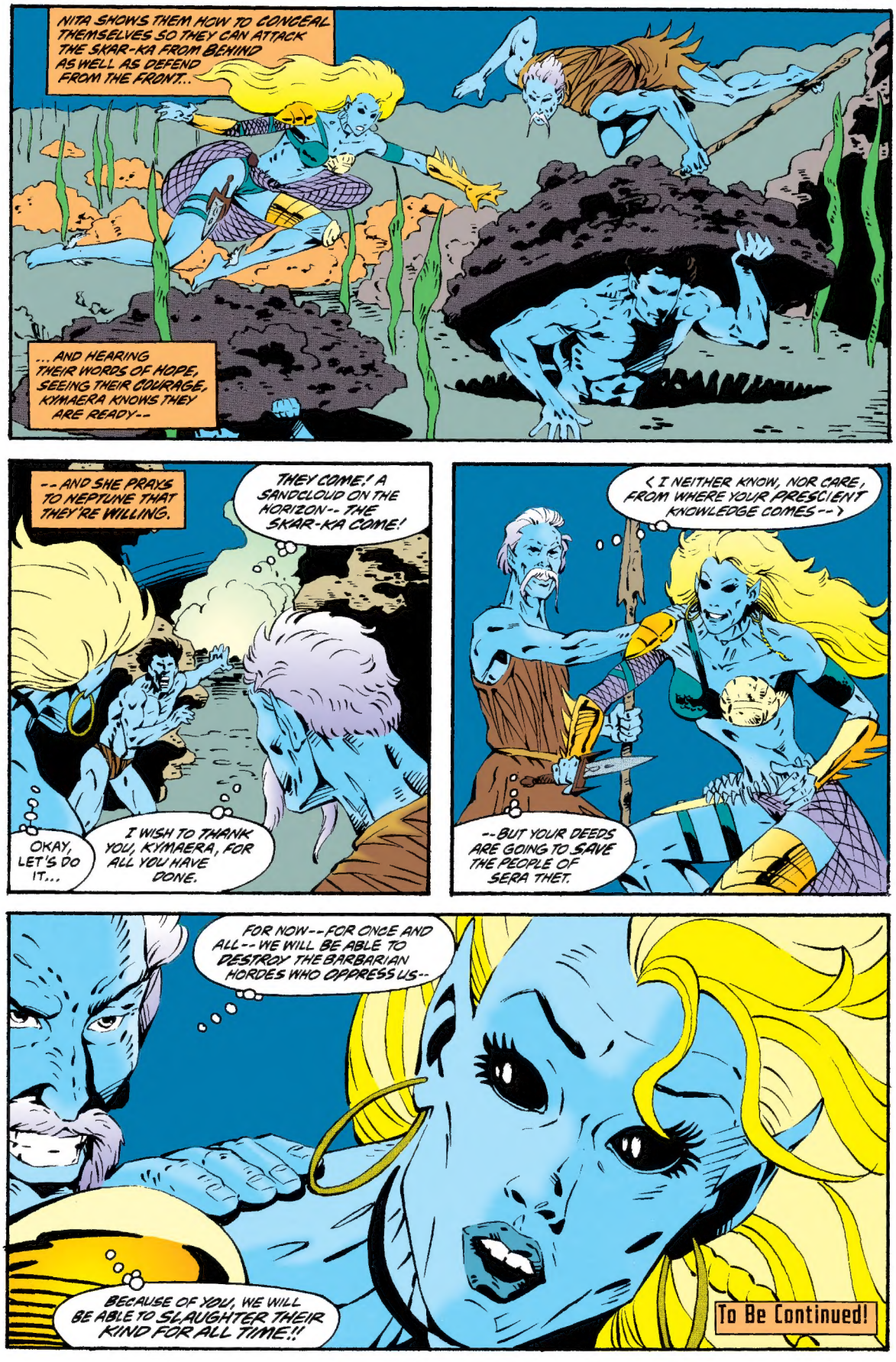

I KNEW I WAS RIGHT.
I CAN READ WHAT IDIOTS LIKE ATTUMACHT WILL DO LIKE THE TOP LINE OF AN EYE CHART.
THE QUESTION IS, SHOULD I EVEN BE GETTING MYSELF INVOLVED IN ANY OF THIS?
I DON'T BELONG IN THIS TIME -- HECK, I BARELY BELONG IN MY OWN, WHAT WITH ALL THE CHANGES I'VE GONE THROUGH LATELY.
FROM NAMORITA, ATLANTEAN/ HUMAN HYBRID--
--TO A BLUE-SKINNED GENETIC THROWBACK, TRYING TO FIND A BALANCE BETWEEN MY TWO HERITAGES--
-- BY LEGALLY CHANGING MY NAME TO NITA PRENTISS BY LAND, AND KYMAERA BY SEA!
STILL CAN'T GET RICHIE TO PRONOUNCE THE ANGLICIZED VERSION OF THE ATLANTEAN NAME FOR THE LEGENDARY GHOST-SHARK FISH--
--THAT DWELL IN THE OCEAN DEPTHS, UNCHANGED FOR CENTURIES.
KY-MARE-AH-- IS THAT SO HARD?
LUCKILY, THE VILLAGERS I'VE TAKEN UP RESIDENCE WITH OVER THE LAST WEEK HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH IT...
WHAT -- NO -- BRIGHTHAIR RETURNS


WHAT IS THE NEWS, KYMAERA?
WERE YOU ABLE TO DIVINE THE INTENTIONS OF THE SKAR-KA?
PLEASE--MY FRIENDS, ONE THING AT A TIME.
(WILL YOU HELP US, BRIGHTHAIR, IF THEY DO ATTACK?)


AGAIN, FORGIVE ME FOR THE DIFFICULTY I HAVE WITH YOUR TONGUE--
--FOR THE TRIBE I COME FROM HAS A VERY DIFFERENT DIALECT.
BUT I WOULD RATHER NOT DISCUSS WORDS OF WAR AMONG THE CHILDREN.

IF WE COULD ALL GATHER 'ROUND THE ARENA OF THOUGHT...
...I WILL TRY TO SHOW YOU WHAT I HAVE LEARNED.
ATTUMACHT HAS FASHIONED A NEW WEAPON, A DEADLY TOOL THAT CAN BE USED TO CUT AS WELL AS CLUB.
IF THE SOLDIERS OF SKAR-KA ARE TO FULLY ARM THEMSELVES WITH THESE NEW WEAPONS--
--YOUR VILLAGE WILL BE HARD-PRESSED TO STOP THEM FROM RUNNING THROUGH YOU LIKE THE SIFTING OF SAND.


THEN WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THEM, KYMAERA?
HOW FAR CAN I GO IN TEACHING THESE PEOPLE HOW TO DEFEND THEMSELVES WITHOUT POSSIBLY ALTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATLANTEAN HISTORY?
THERE ARE METHODS TO STOP THEM, ORELEM...
...TO COMBAT THEIR BRUTE FORCE THROUGH STEALTH AND GUILE--
--I WILL SHOW YOU SOME OF THE TRICKS I KNOW
ORTCHEE-YA!!
OVER THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, KYMAERA SHOWS THE VILLAGERS OF SERA THET HOW TO IMPROVE THEIR MEANS OF DEFENSE.
FROM MINING THE OCEAN DEPTHS IN ORDER TO FASHION LONGER SPEARS WITH SHARPER POINTS--
--TO CREATING A SYSTEM OF CAMOUFLAGED BARRIERS--
--TO TEMPERING KELP WITH LIMESTONE CHALK FROM THE CAVES NEARBY TO CREATE DENSER SHIELDS--
-- SHE SHOWS THESE PEACEFUL PEOPLE HOW TO BEND THEIR PLOWSHARES INTO SWORDS--
--REGRETTING THE NEED TO DO SO, BUT KNOWING THAT IF RULERS LIKE ATTUMACHT WERE TO TRIUMPH OVER THE EDUCATED MASSES--
--THEN HER PEOPLE WOULD NEVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROPERLY FLOURISH!


NITA SHOWS THEM HOW TO CONCEAL THEMSELVES SO THEY CAN ATTACK THE SKAR-KA FROM BEHIND AS WELL AS DEFEND FROM THE FRONT...
... AND HEARING THEIR WORDS OF HOPE, SEEING THEIR COURAGE, KYMAERA KNOWS THEY ARE READY--
-- AND SHE PRAYS TO NEPTUNE THAT THEY'RE WILLING.
THEY COME! A SANDCLOUD ON THE HORIZON-- THE SKAR-KA COME!
OKAY, LET'S DO IT...
I WISH TO THANK YOU, KYMAERA, FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE.
< I NEITHER KNOW, NOR CARE, FROM WHERE YOUR PRESCIENT KNOWLEDGE COMES -- >
-- BUT YOUR DEEDS ARE GOING TO SAVE THE PEOPLE OF SERA THET.
FOR NOW-- FOR ONCE AND ALL-- WE WILL BE ABLE TO DESTROY THE BARBARIAN HORDES WHO OPPRESS US--
BECAUSE OF YOU, WE WILL BE ABLE TO SLAUGHTER THEIR KIND FOR ALL TIME!!
To Be Continued!

WHILE AT THE KATHEDRAL OF ETERNAL POWER, THE SPHINX PREPARES TO COMPLETE HIS DESTRUCTION OF THE WOMAN HE LOVES... TO HATE...
FINANCIAL NEWS NETWORK REPORTER GAVIN HARKIN ON THE SCENE AT THE MANHATTAN OFFICES OF THE HATHOR INTERNATIONAL--
--AS CEO MERYET KARIM FINDS HERSELF UNDER FIRE FROM A HOSTILE TAKEOVER!
MS. KARIM, ARE THESE PERSISTENT RUMORS TRUE, AND IF SO, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CORPORATE RAID ON YOUR HOLDINGS?
I WILL ONLY SAY, MR. HARKIN, THAT THE SOURCE OF THIS BUYOUT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED.
AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HE HAS TAKEN HIS BEST SHOT ALREADY.
HERE I AM, STILL LEFT STANDING.
I HAVE SPENT A LIFE-TIME BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF MY FORE-BEARERS...
...AND IT WILL TAKE FAR MORE THAN THIS RATHER BRUSQUE ATTEMPT AT WRESTING MY POWER FROM ME--
TO PREVENT ME FROM SEEING MY DESTINY THROUGH TO ITS FINAL CONCLUSION.
FNN

THAT WAS THE CEO OF HATHOR INTERNATIONAL, MERYAT KAR--
ENOUGH!!
YOU SEEK TO MOCK ME, WOMAN? IS THAT WHAT YOU TRY TO DO?
VERY WELL, THEN. THOUGH THE ENERGIES OF THE KA WERE MORE ENTRENCHED IN YOU THAN I HAD IMAGINED--
--AND YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE MY INITIAL ASSAULT--
--STILL HAVE YOU LOST AT LEAST HALF OF YOUR POWER TO ME--
--AND NOW, THE TIME HAS COME...
...TO TAKE IT ALL!
To Be Continued In NOVA #6